



## ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE

### GLOBALCIT Review Symposium of The Fringes of Citizenship: Romani Minorities in Europe and Civic Marginalisation by Julija Sardelić

Introduction and Response by [Julija Sardelić](#) ; comments by [Sunnie Rucker-Chang](#), [Djordje Sredanovic](#), [Manuela Boatcă](#), [Tina Magazzini](#) and [Will Kymlicka](#)

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## INTRODUCTION

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In the midst of the 2015/16 'refugee crisis' in Europe, Robert Fico, the Prime Minister of Slovakia at the time, attempted to justify his country's non-acceptance of refugees with the [following words](#): "After all, let's be honest, we aren't even capable of integrating our own Romani fellow-citizens, of whom we have hundreds of thousands. How can we integrate people who are somewhere completely else when it comes to lifestyle and religion?". With this statement, Fico articulated a widespread reluctance across quite a number of EU Member States regarding the acceptance refugees especially from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet, at the same time, it articulated another sentiment: the civic marginalisation that Romani minorities face despite often being citizens in Europe (Fico's statement though could be understood as placing the blame on Romani minorities for such predicament). Fico's statement demonstrated that the outsider/insider dichotomy in the politics of belonging does not only correspond to citizen/migrant positionalities but remains existent within what Hepworth (2014) calls the topologies of citizenship itself.

Scholars and policy makers have predominantly discussed the position of Romani minorities in Europe (which includes both individuals identifying as Roma as well as individuals who are sometimes externally categorised as Roma but would prefer to be known by other names) either as the socio-economically most disadvantaged group or as most discriminated ethnic